

# US 'Bid to Destroy Venezuela' Threatens the Foundations of International Law, Ambassador Warns

By [Ben Chacko](#)

Global Research, May 19, 2019

[Morning Star](#) 17 May 2019

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean, USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#)

*Washington's bid to "destroy Venezuela" is wrecking the international laws governing relations between all states, Venezuela's ambassador to Britain **Rocio Maneiro** warned today.*

"Nobody really understands the danger" of the precedent set by the decision by some countries to recognise would-be usurper Juan Guaido as Venezuela's leader in contravention of all international norms, she warned.

At a press conference in central London, Ms Maneiro said her country was "under siege," noting that a blockade designed to "break the nation" had already cost billions of dollars and thousands of lives and that "if the nation resists the US military stands ready to act."

Ms Maneiro detailed the "net" cast by the US to trap Venezuela, including by oil sanctions that cost the country an estimated \$6 billion (£4.7bn) in revenues in the first year from August 2017.

There are even harsher measures on state oil firm PDVSA and its US subsidiary Citgo that have cost \$11bn (£8.6bn) in expected revenues.

Sovereign assets have been retained, frozen or confiscated abroad amounting to \$5.4bn (£4.2bn) held in 50 banks in 22 countries.

There has also been a mammoth \$30bn (£23.5bn) in estimated losses from the financial isolation imposed by the closure of Venezuelan accounts in dollars and euros.

Ms Maneiro documented the history of Washington's anti-Venezuelan measures from December 2014's decision to sanction its Central Bank through the decision announced this week to ban flights from or to Venezuela from landing in the US.

The Washington-based Centre for Economic and Policy Research published a study in April detailing the impact of these measures on Venezuela's ability to import needed goods, especially medicines, and estimated that 40,000 Venezuelans have died as a result of the US blockade.

Access to vaccines for children has also been severely restricted, though Ms Maneiro noted Chinese medicine shipments continued to arrive.

The stranglehold had not begun with **President Donald Trump** but with “that great Democrat Nobel Prize-winner Barack Obama” as the US tried to re-establish the subservient Latin America it had known “before Chavez, before Fidel, before Sandino,” but that it would fail.

“The Venezuelan people do not accept threats. History shows our response to threats has never been submission.”

She appealed to media organisations and solidarity campaigns present to help tell the truth about the situation, noting that “the great media is spreading stories the superpower wants it to spread. We don’t have the muscle to fight that.”

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

*Featured image is from Morning Star*

The original source of this article is [Morning Star](#)  
Copyright © [Ben Chacko](#), [Morning Star](#), 2019

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Ben Chacko](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)